

Bill Would Allow Employers to Export Jobs When Workers Organize for Fair Wages and Benefits

Washington, DC - Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today voted against H.R. 2587 - legislation that would allow multi-national corporations to export jobs abroad just because workers have organized for fair wages and benefits. Under the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) companies are free to move their operations as they see fit, as long as it is not in retaliation for workers exercising their right to organize, demand better benefits and safer working conditions, or ensure a full day's pay for an honest day's work. The legislation brought up by the Republican majority in the U.S. House today would eliminate that protection, removing the only meaningful remedy available to workers if a company illegally moves operations overseas or eliminates work because workers engaged in protected activities.

"The House Republican's anti-middle class agenda is in full force," said Hinchey. "People who actually work for a living shouldn't have to fear that some greedy CEO is going to send their job overseas just because they've exercised their right to organize for fair wages and benefits. Families can barely make ends meet as it is, and corporate profits have already hit an all time high. The New Yorkers I talk to live in fear every day of losing their jobs or seeing their pay and benefits cut even further. One of the only protections they have left is the right to organize. This bill hammers away at that right too, allowing companies to send an employee's job overseas just because that worker wanted a union. This is a bill of rights for outsourcers when we should be passing a bill of rights for the middle class."

In 2000, the National Labor Relations Board was able to require a company to bring jobs back to the U.S. from Mexico after it was found that the company had only moved the jobs in retaliation against workers seeking to organize a union. Under H.R. 2587, the NLRB would no longer have the ability to take similar actions in the future. Over 200 academics, including leading labor relations and law professors, have written Congress to warn that the bill will have sweeping and dangerous consequences including "[allowing] employers... to eliminate lines of work...or transfer them out of the country in violation of the NLRA."

The bill is opposed by the [AFL-CIO](#) , [AFSCME](#) , [Building and Construction Trades Department](#) , [International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers](#) ,
, [International Brotherhood of Teamsters](#)

, Laborers' International Union,

[SEIU](#)

, International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers,

[United Auto Workers](#)

,

[American Federation of Teachers](#)

,

[NAACP](#)

and

[United Steel Workers](#)

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for quotes in opposition.) .

Hinchey has long worked to protect the rights of American workers to organize for better wages. He has also fought to end the exportation of U.S. jobs abroad by ending tax breaks that encourage outsourcing. Hinchey has also argued that the United States must fundamentally reassess its trade policy in order to level the playing field for domestic manufacturers. The congressman is continuing to push for a renegotiation of unfair trade deals that force American workers to compete against low wages and poor environmental standards in third world countries. He is also calling for the United States to impose trade penalties on China until it ends the currency manipulation that puts American made goods at a disadvantage.

Hinchey has opposed unfair trade deals like the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) because they cause the exportation of U.S. jobs. He is a cosponsor of the Trade Reform, Accountability, Development and Employment Act (TRADE Act), which would require a comprehensive review of major trade agreements on the books, ensure that environmental labor and human rights standards are addressed in future agreements, and give Congress the authority it needs to assert its proper constitutional role in the trade negotiating process by significantly limiting future fast-track authority.